

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device mapped to a desired person among a plurality of devices present on a network, said device retrieving apparatus comprising:

a display unit having a screen;

an input unit that is used to externally input an instruction; and

an application unit that causes individual symbols comprising photographs, illustrations, or personal names corresponding to individuals, and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit,

wherein said application unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to map a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person,

specifies an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the mapped specific individual symbol as a specific individual description,

gains access to a database that is present in a server connected to the network,

obtains a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network,

causes at least one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit,

gains access to the device, and

in the case where the device keeps data, causes data symbols representing respective data kept in the device to be displayed in a specific area on the screen of said display unit, which is different from an area in which the at least one of the obtained device description and corresponding second device symbol is displayed.

4-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Amended) The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, wherein the mapping information includes individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to devices to device descriptions, and

said application unit specifies a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, reads a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and obtains the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Amended) The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, wherein said application unit, when an individual description of the desired person is externally input as a specific individual description via said input unit, gains access to a database that is present in said server, obtains a device description mapped to the input specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causes at least one of the

obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

16. (Previously Amended) The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 3, wherein said application unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to select a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person among the individual symbols displayed on the screen, specifies an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the selected specific individual symbol as a specific individual description, gains access to a database that is present in said server, obtains a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causes at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A device retrieving apparatus that retrieves a device mapped to a desired person among a plurality of devices present on a network, said device retrieving apparatus comprising:

a display unit having a screen;

an input unit that is used to externally input an instruction; and

a control unit that causes individual symbols comprising photographs, illustrations, or personal names corresponding to individuals, and device symbols corresponding to devices to be displayed on the screen of said display unit,

wherein said control unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to map a desired first device symbol among the device symbols displayed on the screen to a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person,

specifies an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the mapped specific individual symbol as a specific individual description,

gains access to a database that is present in an apparatus connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus,

obtains a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network,

causes at least one of the obtained device description and a second device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit,

gains access to the device, and

in the case where the device keeps data, causes data symbols representing respective data kept in the device to be displayed in a specific area on the screen of said display unit, which is different from an area in which at least one of the obtained device description and the corresponding second device symbol is displayed.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Amended) The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, wherein the mapping information includes individual positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to individuals to individual descriptions and device positions-related information with regard to mapping of positions related to device descriptions, and

said control unit specifies a position mapped to the specific individual description from the individual positions-related information, reads a device description mapped to the specified position out of the device positions-related information, and obtains the read-out device description as the device description mapped to the specific individual description.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously Amended) The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, wherein said control unit, when an individual description of the desired person is externally input as a specific individual description via said input unit, gains access to a database that is present in an apparatus connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus, obtains a device description mapped to the input specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causes at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

26. (Previously Amended) The device retrieving apparatus in accordance with claim 21, wherein said control unit, when an instruction is given externally via said input unit to select a specific individual symbol corresponding to the desired person among the individual symbols displayed on the screen, specifies an individual description of the desired person corresponding to the selected specific individual symbol as a specific individual description, gains access to a database that is present in an apparatus connected to the network or in said device retrieving apparatus, obtains a device description mapped to the specific individual description out of mapping information, which is stored in said database and regards mapping of a plurality of individual descriptions to device descriptions

expressing said plurality of devices present on the network, and causes at least one of the obtained device description and a device symbol representing a device expressed by the obtained device description to be displayed on the screen of said display unit.

27-30. (Canceled).